

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBAYSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2204

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1242

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, AO, NL
SUBJ: EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON ANGOLA

REF: A) STATE 56281; B) STATE 56346

1. EMBASSY FURNISHED INFORMATION BASED ON REFTELS TO MFA
HEAD OF CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN BUREAU PIETER VAN VLIET.
HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION, COMMENTING THAT THE INFORMATION
CONFIRMED DUTCH CHARGE'S BASIC REPORTING BUT ALSO PROVIDED
INTERESTING INSIGHTS. VAN VLIET OFFERED VIEWS CONTAINED IN
PARAS 2-5 AND ASKED THAT DUTCH INFORMATION BE CONSIDERED
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2. CHANGES IN CONSTITUTION-MPLA HELD CONGRESS DECEMBER 4-10,
1977; CENTRAL COMMITTEE MET IN JANUARY TO ALTER ANGOLAN
CONSTITUTION. NOTHING NEW IN PRACTICAL TERMS EMERGED FROM
THE RESULTS PUBLISHED IN EARLY FEBRUARY, BUT AN EXTENSION OF
MPLA HEGEMONY WAS INDICATED. ARTICLE II NOW DECLARES MPLA
THE "VANGUARD OF THE WORKING CLASS." MPLA'S TASK IS "TO
LEAD THE STATE ON POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LEVELS AS
A MARXIST PARTY." OLD ARTICLE II SPOKE OF MPLA ONLY IN
TERMS OF A "BROAD FRONT" OF GOVERNING FORCES.

3. ARTICLE IX CONCERNING SOCIAL RELATIONS HAS BEEN CHANGED TO
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READ THAT "SOCIALIST PROPERTY" WILL BE THE BASIS FOR SOCIALIST
DEVELOPMENT. HOWEVER, THE WORDING IN ARTICLE X REMAINS UNCHANGED,
STATING THAT PRIVATE PROPERTY IS RECOGNIZED, SAFEGUARDED AND
GUARANTEED AS LONG AS IT IS "USEFUL FOR THE ECONOMY AND THE
WELL BEING OF THE PEOPLE." THE AMBIGUITY BETWEEN ARTICLES
IX AND X POINTS TO MPLA HESITATION IN ENDORSING THE CONCEPT
OF OVERALL STATE OWNERSHIP.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS-MFA IS TROUBLED BY CONDITIONS DESCRIBED IN A RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT BY DUTCH CHARGE IN LUANDA. REPORT NOTES FREQUENT ARRESTS FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. THOSE ARRESTED ARE HELD INCOMMUNICADO IN OVERCROWDED CELLS, SOME OF THEM SUDDENLY BEING RELEASED FOR NO APPARENT REASON. ACCORDING TO ONE EYEWITNESS, GUARDS' BEHAVIOR IS APPALLING, TORTURE IS COMMON, AND ARRESTEES ARE OFTEN TRUCKED TO OUTLYING CAMPS FROM WHICH ONLY A SLIGHT CHANCE OF RETURN EXISTS. EAST GERMAN AND CUBAN "EXPERTS" TRAIN LOW-IQ ANGOLAN GUARDS IN INTERROGATION METHODS REMINISCENT OF METHODS USED IN CHILE AND BRAZIL. PRISON ADMINISTRATION IS POOR; NOT EVEN A LIST OF PRISONER'S NAMES IS MAINTAINED.

5. DISA-ANGOLAN SECURITY SERVICE (DISA) IS ACTING MORE AND MORE IN AN INDEPENDENT AND UNCONTROLLED MANNER, SUPPOSEDLY DIRECTLY UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRESIDENT. HOWEVER, DUTCH ARE NOT SURE HOW FIRM A GRIP NETO STILL HAS ON DPSA IN PRACTICE.
MCCLOSKEY

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